(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Funds for NTC revival to be raised through sale of surplus assets: GOM" in 'Business Standard' dated 29th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any techno-economic viability report has been submitted for NTC (WBAB and O);

(c) if so, the details of the mills which are to be revived;

(d) whether tied-up revival scheme has been submitted by the Government to BIFR for the same;

(e) if no, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per the directions of Supreme Court and BIFR, Techno-Economic Viability Studies for units under NTC (WBABO) were prepared and submitted to Operating Agency, viz, IDBI. The final decision on revival and closure of units will be taken by BIFR based on a Scheme to be prepared and submitted by the Operating agency under section 18(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Revival Scheme of Cotton Mills of NTC in West Bengal

3611. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival scheme of cotton mills of NTC in West Bengal hangs in balance owing to confrontation between his ministry and State Industrial Reconstruction Department as reported in the Statesman dated 24.3.2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues and time frame fixed for the revival of the units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government had decided that, in the case of NTC mills,

(i) There will be a unit by unit assessment to decide whether a unit is revivable or non-revivable.

(ii) All revivable units will be revived.

(iii) Non revivable units will be closed and attractive VRS option(s) will be made available to the employees.

Accordingly Techno Economic Viability studies were conducted mill-wise. The resources for revival/closure are to be raised from the sale of surplus land and assets of NTC mills. In this context, Govt. of India requested State Govts. to give unconditional permission for sale of land and conversion of land use. BIFR also issued similar directions to State Governments. The Govt. of West Bengal has given conditional permission for sale of land. Based on the available permissions, the Operating Agencies have been requested to prepare Draft Rehabilitation Schemes. In case unconditional permission is available, and more resources raised, more mills could be revived.

Lifting the suspension of duty-free treatment for Indian cotton fabrics by US

3612. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has lifted the suspension of duty-free treatment for Indian cotton fabrics in a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the two countries on September 14, 2000;

(b) if so, to what extent lifting the suspension has been helpful to India;

(c) whether all the agreements reached in this regard between the two countries have been implemented so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to help the Indian fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the Understanding reached with US during consultations held in September 2000, India has notified the revised combined tariff bindings to WTO. On the other hand, US has lifted their reservations